C-4 PERMANENT MULCHING

PURPOSE & APPLICATIONS

Permanent mulch is long-term cover that provides a good buffer around disturbed areas. Permanent mulch such as erosion control mix or landscaping mulch can be used as a permanent ground cover, as an overwinter stabilization mulch, or left to naturalize. It is not designed to support grass vegetation, but legumes or woody vegetation may be established to add stability. Permanent mulch must not be used in areas of concentrated water flows and any evidence of groundwater seepage on slopes may require the erosion control mix to be replaced with riprap.

SPECIFICATIONS

Erosion control mix can be manufactured on or off the project site. It shall consist primarily of organic material, separated at the point of generation, and may include: shredded bark, stump grindings, composted bark, or flume grit and fragmented wood generated from water-flume log handling systems. Wood chips, ground construction debris, reprocessed wood products or bark chips will not be acceptable as the organic component of the mix. Erosion control mix shall contain a well-graded mixture of particle sizes and may contain rocks less than 4" in diameter. Erosion control mix must be free of refuse, physical contaminants, and material toxic to plant growth. Refer to the TEMPORARY MULCHING BMP for composition and installation specification.

MAINTENANCE

- The mulched area should be inspected regularly and after each large rainfall. Any required repairs should be made immediately, with additional erosion control mix placed on top of the mulch to reach the recommended thickness. When the mulch is decomposed, clogged with sediment, eroded or ineffective, it must be replaced or repaired.
- Erosion control mix mulch should be left in place. Vegetation adds stability and should be promoted.
- If the mulch needs to be removed spread it out into the landscape.

OTHER USES

Beside the temporary/semi-permanent stabilization of slopes, permanent mulches such as erosion control mix has been used successfully to stabilize areas covered with snow and that may be problem sites with the spring thaw. It has also been used in construction yards to mitigate the mud.

In these applications, the erosion control mix application rate will need to be adjusted for the site conditions, use and long-term effectiveness. With time, the organic component of the erosion control mix will decompose and become ineffective. Any required repairs should be made immediately, with additional erosion control mix placed on top to reach the desired thickness.